

Atlanta Ham

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

MAY 2006

Severe Weather Ravages Tennessee, Hams Heed The Call To Help

The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 16 April 21, 2006

On Friday, April 7, Western Tennessee was ravaged by tornadoes, and once again, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers were called on to help provide emergency communication. According to Tennessee Section Emergency Coordinator Jimmy Floyd, NQ4U, more than 70 counties experienced the heavy thunderstorms and tornadoes that swept the western part of the Volunteer State. In all, the National Weather Service (NWS) issued more than 130 weather watches and warnings and reported at least 26 tornadoes. Nearly two dozen counties suffered property damage and loss of life. Twelve people died, and more than 160 others were injured as a result of the severe weather.

By 1 PM local time, the Middle Tennessee Emergency Amateur Radio Society (MTEARS) repeater system carried numerous reports of severe weather and damage to many areas of the state. According to Floyd, the MTEARS

UHF system spans most of Tennessee, with Nashville as its hub. Both the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) monitor the system. Local television stations monitor ARES and SKYWARN traffic, as well, he said.

The first tornado watches began in the early afternoon, and by 4:15 PM local time, the Tennessee Section ARES was placed on Alert condition "Charlie." Within 20 minutes, the entire state activated, and hams were monitoring HF and local repeaters, remaining on the air to assist in any way until almost midnight.

During the storms, the NWS in Old Hickory lost power as well as telephone service. NOAA Weather Radio and radar also were unavailable for a time. Amateur Radio volunteers stepped up to the plate, and--thanks to their emergency/disaster training--were able to relay needed information.

Wilson County Emergency Coordinator Pete Navarra, K4IWX, works for the county's emergency management agency. He said that because of information relayed via Amateur Radio, his county was able to dispatch three ambulances, two rescue trucks, one fire engine and a host of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) search-and-rescue responders and their mobile command post to hard-hit Sumner County.

Amateur Radio also helped to dramatically decrease emergency personnel response times, Navarra said. "It was interesting to hear several calls from the Metro Nashville Office of Emergency Management, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and other local agencies trying to communicate," he recounted. "Conventional methods of communication did not work--even cell phone service in Wilson County had gone out. Amateur Radio is needed and it works!"

Floyd agreed. "This has been a big test of the ARES system in Tennessee, but rest assured, we will be ready to go when needed."

The 2006 Atlanta Hamfest Staff Gearing Up For June 3rd

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming Atlanta Hamfest. Vendors are lining up and the emails are flying. Volunteers are needed and club members will be getting the call shortly to help fill the many needs in running a successful event. Arrangements are being made to have someone down from ARRL HQ to do a forum and the staff is still hard at work trying to get a firm commitment from MFJ which has indicated an interest in being with us again in 2006. The folks at MFJ enjoyed their last visit with us. If you are going to the Birmingham Hamfest May 6th please remember to invite folks to our event on Saturday.

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THE ATLANTA HAM

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Submit articles:

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Attn: HAM EDITOR
PO BOX 720398
Atlanta, Georgia 30358

Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE 21ST OF EACH MONTH!

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THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

Originally known as the "Atlanta Wireless Club," the Atlanta Radio Club is one of the oldest and largest amateur radio clubs in the United States. With nearly 200 members, the Club sponsors numerous activities and services for its membership and for the Atlanta area amateur radio community.

The Club is best known for its sponsorship of the annual Atlanta HamFestival, a Saturday event which hosts many vendors, exhibitors, and flea marketers of amateur radio equipment and other electronic equipment.



Bank of America Tower
Site of Atlanta Repeaters:
146.82(-), 224.34(-) and 444.825(+)

W4DOC REPEATERS

The Atlanta Radio Club operates five repeaters at two locations. Currently our most active project is at the Bank of America Tower where we operate three repeaters at 146.82(-), 224.34 (-), and 444.825(+). On the web, go to <http://www.saf.com/arc/repeater.pdf> for a Acrobat 4.0 diagram of our system.

Our second location is the WFOX broadcast tower at Chestnut Mountain, south of Gainesville, GA. We operate two repeaters on 145.35(-) & 444.45 (+) . These repeaters are being renovated under the expert guidance of Dennis, KF4MHW. For pictures of that site, see <http://www.saf.com/arc/wfox.html>

The current schedule for net operations include the Sunday Night Net on 146.820 (Linked to 145.35 on FOX) at 8PM EST and the Southeastern VHF Net on Wednesday evenings at 9PM. The 146.820 machine can also be dialed into IRLP and SKYWARN/Peachtree City during inclement weather.

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS



MEETING NOTICE

WHEN:

Thursday May 4 , 2006 7:30PM

WHERE:

Red Cross 1955 Monroe Drive –
Atlanta

PROGRAM:

Now that you have made that rare DX contact how do you get the QSL card - . Tad Williamson is an expert and has a great program to help you get started on your way to bringing those QSL cards home.

TALK IN:

146.820 (-) PL 146.2

DINNER: Call 146.820 for the Latest info

It's a photo contest!

The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 15 April 14, 2006

It's a photo contest! Have you ever wanted to see a photo of yours in QST, the annual ARRL Amateur Radio calendar or another ARRL publication? Well, here's your chance! Not only will your photographic skill be propagated far and wide, but we're offering a \$100 prize to the winning entry. The winning photo and three runners-up will be published in QST. All submitted photos will also be considered for the 2007 ARRL calendar. Photos must be received at ARRL Headquarters by May 31, 2006. Subject matter must relate to Amateur Radio and be in good taste. Photos will be judged on overall quality and composition. Digital images or color prints are acceptable, but digital images must have at least 300 dpi resolution. E-mail <upfront@arrl.org>; digital images of up to 2 MB or copy to a CD and mail to ARRL Photo Contest, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. All entries must include caption information describing where the photo was taken, along with the names and call signs of anyone appearing in the photograph. Photos submitted become the exclusive property of the ARRL, and decisions of the judges (QST editorial and production staff) are final. Only one entry per person is allowed. Good luck in the contest!



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You can win \$100 CASH!

The Atlanta HAM newsletter is looking for contributions of articles, pictures, and technical writings. Items must be Ham related. Contributors will have a chance to win \$100 cash. The newsletter staff will select the best item and award the prize at the annual holiday party.



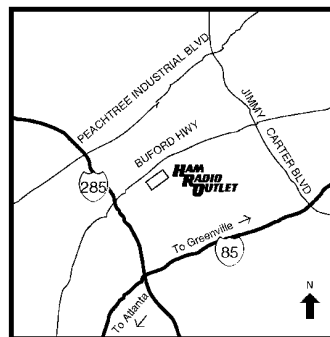
Items should be submitted to John K14Y at john@talipsky.com or via snail mail to 740 Madison Chase Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30045

RAC committee eyeing new entry-level license

RAC committee eyeing new entry-level license: A seven-member Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) advisory committee is looking into whether to ask Industry Canada to institute a new entry-level Amateur Radio license north of the border. Under the leadership of Midwest Director Bj Madsen, VE5FX, the committee is studying the success of the Foundation License implemented in the UK, Australia and Gibraltar to encourage youth to take an interest in science and radio and to promote growth in Amateur Radio. "Amateur Radio is not dying—it is changing, and we must be sure to change with it," Madsen says. The RAC panel is seeking the opinions of Canadian radio amateurs on the topic and will make a recommendation to the RAC Board of Directors. Canadian amateurs can learn more about the advisory committee's work and how to contribute by reading "The Foundation License Concept" on the RAC Web site <<http://www.rac.ca/news/foundation.pdf>>. The ARRL and other petitioners have so far been unsuccessful in convincing the FCC to establish a new entry-level Amateur Radio license in the US.



Tailor-made for DX'ing, the new TS-480HX HF transceiver raises the bar on portable performance. Despite its compact dimensions, it delivers an astonishing punch: 200W with a DC 13.8V supply. Yet its separate control panel is perfect for base station use. Sharing virtually all the same powerful features is the 100W TS-480SAT, except that it boasts a built-in antenna tuner. Whichever model you choose, you can be sure of enjoying the best of both worlds - first-rate communications at home and on the trail. This product can be used with the 5MHz frequency band for the US market.



All the top brands of amateur radio equipment available!

We'll see you in June at the Hamfest!

**800-444-7927 770-263-0700
24 HOUR FAX 770-263-9548**

atlanta@hamradio.com

6071 Buford Hwy,

METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Call ahead to verify session and be prepared with the appropriate forms and required papers. A small fee may be charged. Check with the VEC

Athens, GA

1st Monday of each EVEN-numbered month at 7:00 pm 2095 W. Broad Street.
Contact: EDWIN FUQUA, N4VA
(706) 354-1727 E: edwin.fuqua@charter.net

Cartersville, GA

1st Tuesday of each month at the Cartersville Kroger. Contact: JODI POWELL, AG4BK
(770) 387-1591

Gainesville, GA

1st Sunday of EVEN-numbered months
Johnson High School, 3305 Poplar Springs Rd
Contact: ALFRED WESTBROOK, KT4VP
(770) 965-4901 Email: kt4vp@arrl.net

Lilburn, GA

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
4th Friday of Every Month at 7:00 pm
St. John Neumann Church 801 Tom Smith Rd
Contact: Howie Gould, W9HG (770)921-8362
Headphones provided for CW tests.

Milledgeville, GA ARRL / VEC

2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
at the Mary Vinson Memorial Library, 151 S. Jefferson Stacross from the Georgia Military Academy. Contact: OTIS MURPHY W4OY
(478) 452-6394 Email: W4OY@arrl.net

Peachtree City, GA

1st Thursday of EVEN-numbered months at 7:00 pm, and the 2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 10:00 am at the Peachtree City Library, downstairs meeting room. Contact: JAN DUBROCA, KN4JD (770) 502-0760

Snellville, GA

2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm
at Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Road.
Contact: WAYNE TAYLOR, WD3CCA
(770) 498-7759

Stone Mountain, GA ARRL / VEC

Alford Memorial Radio Club
2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 8:30 am Stone Mountain United Methodist Church, 5312 W. Mountain St.
Contact: BOB VARONE, W4ETN
(770) 978 3179 Email: bvarone@juno.com

Atlanta, GA

4th Sunday of each month, 2:30pm Georgia Tech
Visit <http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/w4aql/test.html> for more information and to sign up for a mailing list.

No pre-registration is required.

Email: w4aql-ve@cyberbuz.gatech.edu (emails preferred over phone calls) Phone: 404-894-2936

UPCOMING CONTESTS AND OP ACTIVITIES

May 6, 1300Z-1800Z, Baltimore, MD. Carroll County Contesters, K3P. Triple Crown Special Event -- Kentucky Derby. 21.365 14.265 7.265 3.865. Certificate. Carroll Country Contesters, c/o John F. King, PO Box 64, Hampstead, MD 21074. www.wy3p.net. Special certificate for all three Triple Crown events.

May 20-May 21, 1400Z-2000Z, Farmingdale, NY. Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, W2GSB/APM. Armed Forces Day Special Event at the American Airpower Museum. 28.320 21.380 14.260 7.235. QSL. W2GSB/APM, PO Box 356, West Babylon, NY 11704. www.gsbarc.org

May 25-May 29, 1500Z-0300Z, Indianapolis, IN. Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, W9IMS. 90th running of the Indianapolis 500. 21.340 14.240 7.240 3.840. QSL. Indianapolis Motor Speedway ARC, PO Box 18495, Indianapolis, IN 46218. www.qrz.com/w9ims.

UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

13 May 2006
Heart of Georgia Hamfest
5 Central Georgia Amateur Radio Clubs
<http://members.cox.net/cgarc/>
Talk-In: 146.850 - 600

6-7 May 2006
Alabama State Convention
(BirmingHAMfest 2006)
Birmingham Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.w4cue.com>
Talk-In: 146.28/88 (no tone)

3 June 2006
Georgia State Convention
Atlanta Radio Club
www.atlantahamfest.com
Talk-In: 146.820 (PL 146.2)

The Signman of Baton Rouge



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BADGE!**

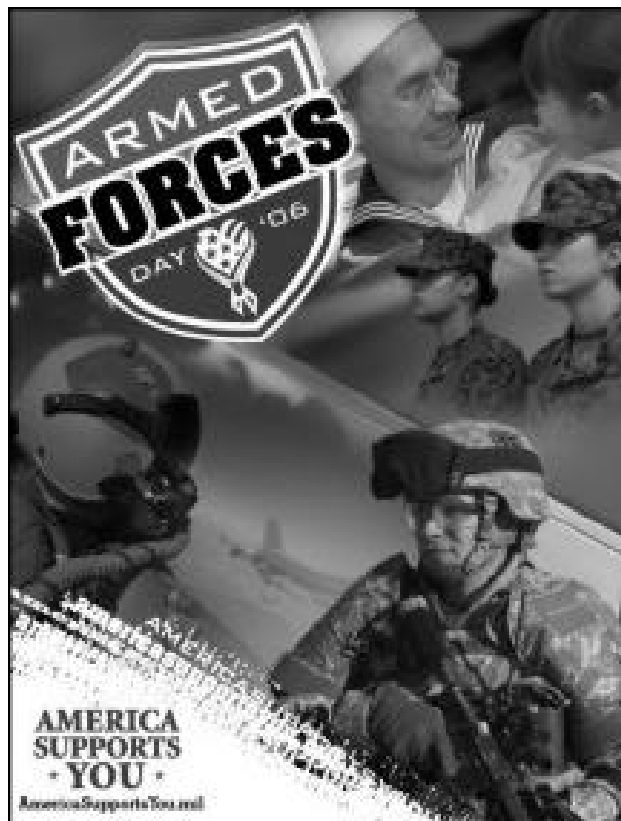
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Armed Forces Day 2006 military/amateur activities set

Armed Forces Day 2006 military/amateur activities set (Apr 28, 2006) -- The US Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard will cosponsor the annual military/Amateur Radio communications tests Saturday and Sunday, May 13-14 in celebration of the 56th Armed Forces Day. Although the actual Armed Forces Day is Saturday, May 20, the Armed Forces Day on-the-air activities will take place earlier, to avoid conflicts with those who might be attending Dayton Hamvention, May 19-21. The annual activity features traditional military-to-amateur crossband (ie, hams transmit on amateur frequencies and receive military stations on nearby military channels) SSB voice tests and copying the Secretary of Defense's annual Armed Forces Day message via digital modes (RTTY, PACTOR, AMTOR, PSK-31 and MT63). "These tests give Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense and/or the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise," the US Armed Forces Day announcement says. QSL cards will be provided to those making contact with military stations. Commemorative certificates will be awarded to those receiving and copying without error

the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense. The tentative schedule of on-the-air events--including a list of participating stations, the Secretary of Defense's message transmission schedule and more information--is available on the US Army MARS Web site. The schedule is subject to change without notice



President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department -- the Department of Defense.

DXCC Desk approves operations for DXCC credit

DXCC Desk approves operations for DXCC credit: The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved these operations for DXCC credit: YI9AQ (Iraq), current operation, effective September 21, 2004; D6/WB4MBU (Comoros), operation from May 24 to October 27, 2001; D68JC (Comoros), operation from October 23 to November 8, 2001, and 4W2AQ (Timor-Leste), operation from June 18 to December 17, 2003. For more information, visit the DXCC Web page <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc>. "DXCC Frequently Asked Questions" can answer most questions about the DXCC program. ARRL DX bulletins are available on the W1AW DX Bulletins page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/dx/>.

ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC P.O. Box 720398 Atlanta, GA 30358

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Make your check payable to Atlanta Radio Club

European Hams Hear Signal From Edge of Space

The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 17 April 28, 2006

Hams in Germany and Portugal reportedly have received signals from the US Voyager 1 spacecraft <<http://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/>> in March and April. On March 31, AMSAT-DL (Germany) radio amateurs at the Institute for Environmental and Future Research (IUZ) at Bochum Observatory used a 20-meter radio telescope dish to detect Voyager 1's 8.4 GHz signal.

Using Doppler shift and sky positioning, the German team received the signal from a distance of 8.82 billion miles (14.7 billion km)--nearly 100 times the distance from the sun to Earth. This is the first recorded reception of signals from Voyager 1 by radio amateurs.

Members of the AMSAT-DL/IUZ team included Freddy de Guchteneire, ON6UG, James Miller, G3RUH, Hartmut Paesler, DL1YDD, and Achim Vollhardt, H2VA/HB9DUN. Assisting were Theo Elsner, DJ5YM of IUZ, and Roger Ludwig of Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), as well as the Deep Space Network (DSN) tracking station in Madrid, Spain.

Luis Cupido, CT1DMK, in Portugal reported April 15 that he spent "two nights without sleep" to hear Voyager 1 at his QTH using a 5.6-meter dish. To detect the signal, Cupido says he had to acquire and integrate spectrograms

over an extended period.

"I did several acquisition periods of 15 minutes (900 s), the minimum I would expect to see something," he said on his Web site <<http://w3ref.cfn.ist.utl.pt/cupido/dsn.html>>, noting that any longer time period would be incompatible with his Doppler-shift correction scheme. "The receiver is operated at fixed frequency, and the Doppler variation was corrected by skewing successive spectrograms in software while accumulating [images]."

He based positive identification of Voyager 1's signal on the fact that signal is "only visible for the right skew amount that corresponds to the Doppler variation as predicted by the relative velocity calculation."

Voyager 1 was launched in September 1977 to conduct close-up studies of Jupiter and Saturn, Saturn's rings and the larger moons of the two planets. Designed to last only five years, the probe is expected to send back astronomical information to NASA and JPL until at least 2020. Voyager 1 will study ultraviolet sources among the stars, and its fields and particles instruments will continue to search for the boundary between the sun's influence and interstellar space.

ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC.
PO BOX 720398
ATLANTA, GA 30358



MEETING NOTICE - THURSDAY May 4, 2006

Robert C. Garcia

"Bob" - KD4JRT

"The Scopeman"

Tektronix Scope Repairs

845 Fairfield Dr.
Marietta, Ga 30068

770-977-5701
Esaronel@bellsouth.net

Join us for Lunch Bunch every Friday!



Location: Frankies

5600 Roswell Rd NE Atlanta, GA 30342-1150

(404) 843-9444

In The Prado

1130AM—1230PM